

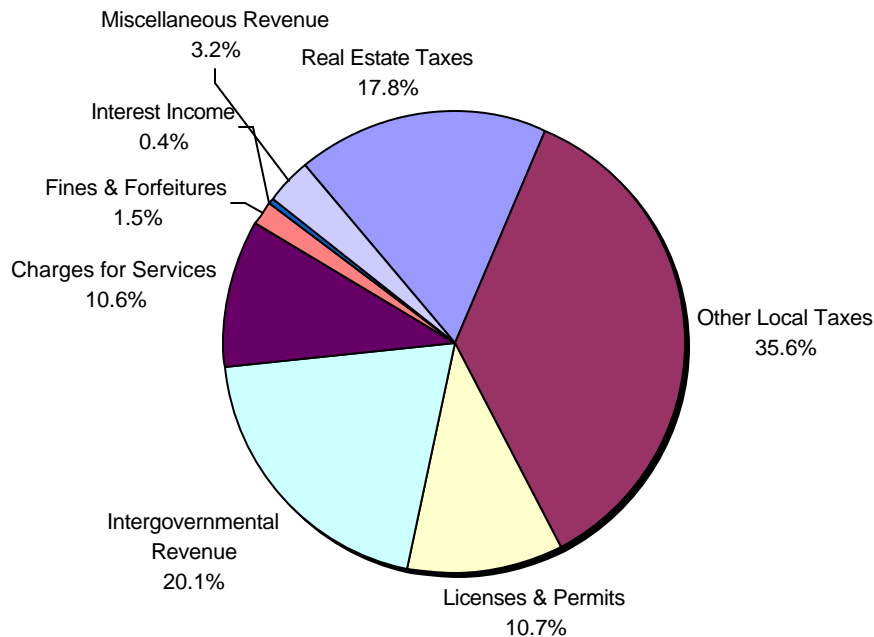
Financial Services

On May 13, 2003, the Town Council adopted a \$33.5 million budget for FY 2004, which still maintained the real estate tax rate of \$.20 per \$100, assessed value. This tax rate has been in existence since 1989. On June 10, 2003, the Town Council amended the FY 2004 budget to incorporate increases in the cigarette and meals taxes to fund increased street paving and capital projects. The cigarette tax increased from \$.10/pack to \$.20/pack. The meals tax increased from 4% to 5%.

For the twenty-fourth consecutive year, the Town of Blacksburg received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2002. The Town also received for the twelfth consecutive year the GFOA award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for the Town's Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2002 budget.

The Town is working on payment of services through the Internet to our citizens. The first service available through the Internet was Water, Sewer and Refuse/Recycling Services. This service was introduced in March 2003. It is accessible through the Town's website. Utility customers are able to inquiry on consumption history, bills and payments as well as pay their bill online with either Visa or MasterCard. Since the introduction of this service, over 860 customers have utilized this service and approximately 250 payments a month are made through this service. The next Internet services to be offered will be parking tickets inquiry and payment; real estate taxes inquiry and payment and vendor access for payment and bid information.

FY 2003 Revenue



Revenue and Expenditures

The Town is composed of seven funds:

- General Fund
- Capital Improvement Fund
- Water and Sewer Fund
- Waste Management Fund
- Golf Fund
- Transit Fund
- Equipment Operations Fund

The General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund comprise the general government functions of the Town of Blacksburg. The General Fund is used to finance the day-to-day operations of the Town and comprises the largest portion (60.5%) of the total financial operations of the Town.

In Fiscal Year 2003, general fund revenues totaled \$15.7 million, an increase of 4.0% over Fiscal Year 2002. General property taxes comprise 17.8% of General Fund revenues. Other local taxes comprise 35.6% of General Fund revenues. The Town is fortunate to be able to rely upon a very diverse revenue base that is not too dependent on any one source of revenue. The Town's real estate tax collections were 99.4% of the current real estate tax levy of

\$2,795,668. The Town has had a tax collection rate in excess of 98% for the past twenty-four years. Our high collection percentages are a result of a concerted effort by Financial Services and the Town Attorney Office to collect all delinquent taxes.

General Fund expenditures exclusive of capital projects totaled more than \$15.3 million in Fiscal Year 2003, an increase of 2.0% over Fiscal Year 2002.

The Fiscal Year 2003 financial affairs of the Town will be subject to an independent audit by Brown, Edwards & Company, LLP Certified Public Accountants. The audit report will be issued in December on the June 30, 2003 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and will be available for public review.